

Pappas Telecasting Companies' 'donation' of \$325,000 in airtime to Republican candidates in certain areas is yet another example of a powerful media group abusing its privileged access to the public airwaves. It is just as bad as what Sinclair attempted to do but fortunately due to so much outcry had to scale back.

Localism is not served when a corporate headquarters decides to provide one side in local elections a louder voice than others. During election season, local audiences should be offered genuine debate -- not disingenuous offers to "purchase" an equal amount of response time.

Pappas uses the public airwaves free of charge and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. If they are going to GIVE \$325,000 in air time to the republicans they support, then they need to GIVE the same accomodations to the Democratic Candidates. They say the Dem's can purchase their own airtime. This is not unbiased and serving the public interest.

Pappas' actions are legally questionable and cast doubt on whether Pappas truly intends to serve the public interest. Their actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. Further, they show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than just a returned postcard. Thank you.